Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended): A Neisserial bleb preparation ~~derived from an lgtB neisserial strain with an L3 LOS immunotype~~ from a Neisserial strain with an L3 lipooligosaccharide (LOS) immunotype wherein the Neisserial strain has been genetically engineered to permanently downregulate the expression of functional gene product from the *IgtB* gene.

2. (Currently amended): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 1, wherein the Neisserial strain is ~~comprising a~~ Neisserial meningococcal strain of serogroup B.

3. (Currently amended): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 1, wherein the [[n]]Neisserial strain cannot synthesize capsular polysaccharide.

4. (Currently amended): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 3, wherein the Neisserial strain is genetically engineered to permanently downregulate the expression of functional gene product from at least one capsular polysaccharide gene ~~of the neisserial strain is downregulated in expression compared to the native strain from which the neisserial strain is derived, wherein the at least one downregulated capsular polysaccharide gene is~~ selected from the group consisting of[[:]] ctrA, ctrB, ctrC, ctrD, synA, synB, synC, and siaD.

5. (Currently amended): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 1, wherein the Neisserial strain is genetically engineered to downregulate expression of functional gene product from the *msbB* and/or *htrB* genes.~~at least one lipid A gene of the neisserial strain are downregulated in expression compared to the native strain from which the neisserial strain is derived, wherein the lipid A gene is selected from either or both of msbB and htrB~~.

6. (Currently amended): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 1, wherein ~~one or more~~ an outer membrane protein gene[[s]] of the [[n]]Neisserial strain ~~are~~ is

downregulated in expression compared to the native strain ~~from which the neisserial strain is derived~~, wherein the ~~one or more~~ downregulated outer membrane protein gene[[s]] ~~are~~ is selected from the group of: ~~porA, porB, opA, opC, pilC or frpB~~ PorA, PorB, OpA, OpC, PilC or FrpB.

7. (Currently amended): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 6, wherein the [[n]]Neisserial strain has a combination of outer membrane protein genes downregulated in expression, wherein the combination of downregulated outer membrane protein genes is selected from the group of: PorA and OpA, PorA and OpC, OpA and OpC, PorA and OpA and OpC, PorA and FrpB, OpC and FrpB, OpA and FrpB, PorA and OpA and OpC and FrpB.

8. (Currently amended): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 1, wherein ~~one or more~~ an outer membrane protein antigen[[s]] in the [[n]]Neisserial strain is upregulated in expression as compared to the native strain ~~from which the neisserial strain is derived~~, wherein the ~~one or more~~ upregulated outer membrane protein antigen[[s]] ~~are~~ is selected from the group of: NspA, TbpA low, TbpA high, Hsf, Hap, OMP85, PilQ, NadA, LbpA, and MltA.

9. - 13. (Cancelled):

14. (Currently amended): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 1, wherein the LOS ~~contained therein~~ is conjugated to a source of T-helper epitopes.

15. (Withdrawn): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 14, wherein the LOS is conjugated to the source of T-helper epitopes by a process of intra-bleb cross-linking.

16. (Currently amended): An immunogenic composition comprising the Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

17. (Previously presented): The immunogenic composition of claim 16, comprising an adjuvant.

18. (Currently amended): The immunogenic composition of claim 16, further comprising ~~one or more conjugated~~ a capsular polysaccharide[[s]] or oligosaccharide[[s]], wherein the polysaccharide or oligosaccharide is ~~derived~~ from a bacterium selected from the group of: meningococcus serogroup A, meningococcus serogroup C, meningococcus serogroup W-135, meningococcus serogroup Y, and *H. influenzae* type b.

19. (Withdrawn): A process of manufacturing the immunogenic composition of claim 16, comprising the steps of:

culturing a lgtB$^-$ Neisserial strain with an L3 LOS immunotype:

isolating blebs therefrom; and

formulating the blebs with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

20. (Withdrawn): The process of claim 19, comprising isolating the blebs by extracting with 0-0.5% deoxycholate.

21. - 52. (Cancelled):

53. (Withdrawn): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 14 wherein the source of T-helper epitopes comprises a protein or outer membrane protein.

54. - 58. (Cancelled)

59. (New) An isolated Neisserial bleb preparation from a Neisserial strain with an L3 LOS immunotype wherein the *lgtB* gene has been inactivated resulting in an intermediate LOS structure in which the terminal galactose residue and sialic acid are absent.

60. (New) The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 59, wherein the Neisserial strain is a Neisserial meningococcal strain of serogroup B.